# Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Block\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ English 7H

Writing dialogue and using sensory language examples

**There are several important things to remember when writing dialogue.**

* Do not use dialogue simply to convey information. Dialogue should set the scene, advance action, give insight into characterization, remind the reader, and foreshadow. Dialogue should always be doing many things at once.
* Keep the character's voice in mind but keep it readable. Dialogue doesn't have to be grammatically correct; it should read like actual speech. However, there must be a balance between realistic speech and readability.
* Don't use too much slang or misspelling in order to create a character's voice. Also remember to use speech as a characterization tool. Word choice tells a reader a lot about a person: appearance, ethnicity, sexuality, background, and morality.

Some Examples:

“The 40...30...He's at the 20! ...10...TOUCHDOWN!”   
  
“Oh C'mon, that was supposed to be an interception,” Shane exclaimed.

“Sorry, Man.”   
  
“I want a rematch!” he shot back.   
  
“You’re on.”

**The Little Boy and the Old Man**

The little boy said, "Sometimes I drop my spoon."  
The old man whispered, "I do that too."  
The little boy whispered back, "I wet my pants."  
"I do that too," laughed the little old man.  
The little boy said, "I often cry."  
The old man nodded, "So do I."  
"But worst of all," said the boy, "it seems  
Grown-ups don't pay attention to me."  
And he felt the warmth of a wrinkled old hand.  
"I know what you mean," said the little old man.  
([Shel Silverstein](http://www.shelsilverstein.com/), "The Little Boy and the Old Man." A Light in the Attic. HarperCollins, 1981)

**Sensory language**

Sensory language references and stimulates the senses, thus:

*The cool morning sun cast long fingers of shadow and light across the green field as our visitors tramped across rough and the dewy grass.*

**Sensory Words**

**Keep the following lists of words to help you improve your writing. Using sensory**

**words can help you provide more details and examples in your writing.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SOUND WORDS**  Hanging croaking laughing ringing tinkling  Barking crunching moaning rumbling thudding  Bawling crying mooing rustling thumping  Blaring dripping mumbling scratching ticking  Booming exploding muttering screaming twittering  Buzzing fizzing noisy screeching warbling  Chattering gagging peeping singing wheezing  Chiming gasping piercing slamming whimpering  Chirping giggling pinging shouting whining  Clanging grating plopping silent whispering  Clicking grunting quacking snoring whooping  Clinking gurgling quiet splashing  Cooing hissing rapping squawking  Coughing honking rasping stuttering  Crackling jangling riming tearing | **TOUCH WORDS**  Abrasive feathery knobbed sandy spongy  Biting fine lacy scalding steamy  Boiling fluffy leathery scorching steely  Bubby foamy light scratchy sticky  Bulky freezing lukewarm scummy stifled  Bumpy furry matted shaggy stinging  Burning fuzzy metallic sharp stony  Bushy glassy moist silky stubby  Clammy gluey mushy slimy tangled  Coarse grainy numbing slippery tender  Cool greasy oily sloppy tepid  Cottony gritty piercing smooth thick  Crisp gushy plastic smothering tickling  Cushioned hairy pocked soapy tough  Damp heavy pointed soft velvety  Downy hot pulpy sopping warm  Drenched humid rocky soupy waxy |
| **TASTE AND SMELL WORDS**  Acid doughy minty rank sweaty  Acidic earthy moist raw sweet  Acrid floury moldy rich tangy  Alkaline flowery musky rotten tasteless  Aromatic fresh musty salty tough  Biting fruity oily scented vile  Bitter garlicky perfumed sharp vinegary  Bland hearty pickled sour  Burnt hot piney spicy  Buttery lemony plastic spoiled  Cold medicinal pungent stagnant | **SIGHT WORDS**  Abrasive feathery knobbed sandy spongy  Biting fine lacy scalding steamy  Boiling fluffy leathery scorching steely  Bubbly foamy light scratchy sticky  Bulky freezing lukewarm scummy stifled  Bumpy furry matted shaggy stinging  Burning fuzzy metallic sharp stony  Bushy glassy moist silky stubby  Clammy gluey mushy slimy tangled  Coarse grainy numbing slippery tender  Cool greasy oily sloppy tepid  Cottony gritty piercing smooth thick  Crisp gushy plastic smothering tickling  Cushioned hairy pocked soapy tough  Damp heavy pointed soft velvety  Downy hot pulpy sopping warm  Drenched humid rocky soupy waxy |